## THE SWAMP SERPENT.

The "Foulthton," visible has so long been a Centure of the newspapers of Paris, is rapidly being engrafted upon the strong stock of American journalism, and now the daily stary is looked for by many renders as eagerly. are the stock reports by others. Because f this fact, I put the following matter in the

urm of a story, instead of the stereotyped see of a newspaper letter, and in genuina serry fashion open with a few words of talk from the lips of one of the characters. In this case, she is "Mary," the well-known Chactaw poddler of roots and herbs, whose station is near the down town entrance of the camous French market, in New Orleans.

"Eh. bien, gentymans! it is true. I am no banan this morning—not a one. He is stole, that banan. Two farach \*anan stole, and the thief—the thief—he is snake."

Seeing the doubtful look upon our faces, Mary pointed a copper colored forelinger loward her stock in trade spread out upon the pavement around her.

"Eh, been, gentymans?" she said in her unnodulated voice. "It is true. See, I am no

benan this morning." Sure enough, the noble bunch of bananas which had been her pride and principal source of revenue, as well as the envy of every other Choctaw wender in the market, for lo these many days, was conspicuous by its absence, and Many's stock—like that of her computerots-was made up solely of some pitiful bark ennoes, beaded moccasins, bunches of dried herbs and roots and about two quarts

of swamp blackberries.
"And the thicf;" a ked my companion, Gustave-a member of the New Orleans police force-after taking three lazy pulls at his eight ette and ejecting the smoke in slender streams from les nostreis, "Is ho hered. Was he one of your neighbors."

"He is not here; no. He is not man-he.

Like all other Indians, the Choctaw berry venders, who gather in a little group each morning at the end of the French market in New Orleans, are not voluble, "How much!" you will ask, pointing at a square piece of clean back upon which a handful of berries is piled, and the Indian will hold up two lingers-indicating cents-or three or four as the case may be. Sometimes he will put the price into words; but his conversation is, in privacy of his native swamps. The enter-prize which had induced Mary to add a bunch The enterof bananes to her home gathered roots and nerbs had led to her acquiring a more extended vorabulary than that of any of her relative, and the excitoment consequent upon her great loss made her use it more freely, this morning, than ever before in the presence of white men.

You are not believe that thief is snake?" She pushed her course black hair behind quirer, her ears and scowled at us from beneath her wiry evelows. Then she belted the loose value wrapper which she were with her outstretched therers, and jorked her head toward the smooth circumference of her waist thus

That sanke is hig through like I am.

ank troe, where the wind can keep him fresh, and when I am come up from the river, be-

Tone with the claims fund and arm.

"And the claim Plant with With Traid, be

med some Parel chitchel a bunch

gone in the examp. I hang my banan in the green ode, and that other night—the jast night he is to a grain, and this morning I am no banan. "—Cor. New York Sun.

there is no banana here.

shouldors and sent thirteen perfect rings of smoke, one after another, from between his floats thereon; Lord Henry Lennox's posturings. We will go out there this evening and ings made his sobriquet, "Miss" Lennox, parotch that crake, what do you say?"

and Messigerie is lying down there in the send on a steamer fitting up for a run across he gulf to Central America. The chances are that the serpent has escaped from it, and If that is the case, and we kill it, it will make

an item for you; ch, my boy?'
Thus it was that at 5 o'clock that afternoon. ananas were perched among the tranches barianas were harging from the lowest limb of the tree, about six feet above the swamp grass, and I was lying immediately over them in a nest of Spanish moss which effectually cushoned the branch on which I rested, and at the same time shielded me from observation from below. Gustave oc cupied a similar position on the opposits side of the massive trunk, and with a repeating rafic beside us and keen-edged knives with curving blades - such knives as the field hands use for cutting sugar came—we awaited the approach of twinght and the scrient. The upper part of the tree had been thor-

ighly explored in the bright sunlight of the free oon and we were confident that nothng larger than a tree toad lurked in its green-

The not was built on a hummock of solid ground raing out of the eypress swamp, above the surface of which all around us were thrust the sharp pointed leaves of the palmette and carious scarlet flowers, as well as the ragged trunks of the cypress. Imagination peopled the slimy coze with all manner of foul things, shaped after the general image of the water rnoccasins, which moved about in plain sight until twilight hid them.

I was wiping the mist from my eyo glasses with a soft them handkers hief when something touched me on the shoulder and made me start so violently that the glasses slipped from my hands and fell into a clump of wild roses

growing about the roots of the tree.
"Never mind them," hissed. Gustavo in an interne wine, er, "look toward the river.

But without the glasses I was almost blind and could not me more than ton feet before me. I harrishe crashing of tweet, however, as though some large body was moving to ward us, along the read over which we had some, and then clustave awang binnelf into

to is commend he whispered, and from the common among the cottonwoods it a. In the last has a borse. You fire ( will sim at the spine, and if or stop it give it the knife of

We heard the are killing continue, and pres | was \$2,750, and the smallest \$150.

of the line area is ally, as the agic a party of increment were passing through it. Instead of coming diearly toward us, the ngitation passed through the thicket to the opposite sale of the live

oak, where we had no outlook. While I was shifting my position and peop ing through the semi-larkness in the direction which the agitation had taken, a slimy, black shape slid about the trunk of the tree, passed across the limited field of my vision and grasped the bananas. At the point visible it was as large around as a man's body, and in the indistinct view which caught it seemed to taper rapidly to a head no larger than an orange.

I whipped the rifle to my shoulder and

pulled the trigger, just as Gustave knocked up the barrel of my gun with his own. There was a pause of a second's duration, and then the shape came sliding up to our nest, and before Gustave could use his knife it had grasped him about the middle and lifted him from the perch. I heard it for some seconds after crushing the dry twins that floored the rondway, as it moved with its prey toward

I was afraid to risk a shot in the direction. of the noise for fear of wounding Gustave, and at once swung myself to the ground, whence I took up my glasses and set off at a arp run down the read,

It was almost dark now, but after passing sut of the thicket about the but I bened the nees of men, and my name was should with strength of Gustave's strong lung

"I told you Mary was right," said Gustave, coolly, when I stopped beside him in the road a few seconds later. My fright and the sharp run made me pant like a tired dog; but he was cool and s rene. The end of his freshlylighted elegrette burned red in the darkness. She fold us the truth as she understood it. She thought it was a serpent that carried off her bearings, and so do you.

You remember when I knocked up your rifle barrel just as you were about to shoot? Well, I saw then that the thing was no snake, but the trunk of an elephant. I knew it could be nothing but a tame elephant belonging to the circus, and it would not do for us to kill it. But I must confess I did not expect him seize me He scared me so for a minute that I could not even cry out; but he did not hurt me in the least, and down here in the road we met the circus men coming in pursuit of him, and he put me down."

"And the bannings" "O, the circus company will make it all right with Mary, or I will jug the whole lot." I am inclined to believe that the circus company made it all right with Gustave, also, in or-ideration of his services in saving their elephant from my rifle bullet, as he was play-ing an unusually high hand when I met him off duty the next night in a Royal street gambling hall.-Henry Newport in Cincinnati En-

#### Americans Well Liked in Japan.

Only a short time ago, an American gentleman wanted to rent a country house near Toldo; and after much search his agent found one five or six nales out which suited. On going to the owner, who chanced to be one of the old daimies, not now in public life, for the His hand is little, like nov two fists, and terms, and adding that he wanted the house for an American, the daimio said: "You "You know that Tehoupstonlas road! Yes." want it for an American! Isn't America the am has there. Two miles from there, where the reter bands in and comes near my onesekt informative measures. wigwam. I am hang my banan in that Bvo ernment: "Yes," said the agent. "Very ask rec. where the wind can keep him fresh, well," replied the old daimio, "you can tell and when I am come up from the river, be-fore years a left, with water for ball in the for rent at any price, but he can have it for got, that wall is some down out of the live six months, or as long as he pleases, for noth-sale, if is his is and he is crawl, and crawl, ing, and beautily welcome."

and error w 1.7.

She instabled the expent's show, gliding motion with the change hand and arm.

And this is the feeling which prevails everywhere. Count Monye, the dapanese minister for foreign affairs, said to an Amerian gentleman the off or days: "We love the Aureleans of evenil forestmens. They have all my been kind to us and all our teeple knownt. If a traveler in any part of the And concrete inv became tom, and to is empire says he is an American fie will immedifficult to accommodate an ordinary ladder. The time general is small times distributed by the standard of methods and courte on a tention of methods and courte on a tention of methods are to the standard of the says he is a fermion of an I have no some more taxon. That snake is far having no some more taxon. That snake is far having no some more taxon. That snake is far having no some more taxon. That snake is far having no some more taxon.

She waved her hand with a tragic pesture | Nickmames of Parliamentary Members, above the neegerly spread pavement, as though saving, "Here is proof of my words— have given from time to time to certain of To mention our members of parliament. "Thereve her," remarked Gustave, oracu-arly. He threw his head back upon his tinck was always spoken of as "The Resum," ticularly appropriate. Lord Beauchamp But a smalle can have no possible use for when he sat in the lower house as Hon. F. manane Scripents are not fragivorous." Lygon, was "Miss Fannie," or Miss Freddie,"
"I don't eare what they are. Mary has no in his corner seat below the gangway; "Batavian Grace" fitted Mr. Beresford Hope "like a glove;" the son of an eminent-a very emi-

nent-statesman was known in the gallery as "The Cub." Mr. Liddell, before he became Earl of Havensworth, was "The Flycatcher," from his invariable habit, when speaking, of Gustave and myself, with a bunch of fresh taking a step forward and then a step backward, accompanied by a motion with his of the liverage tree which sheltered the right hand as of one "throwing a fly" across rough back but in which Mary lived. The a trout stream; and when Mr Sciater-Booth sailed magnificently up the floor of the house after dinner it was a most point among the reporters whether he had been dining off some such succedent but plebenia fare as "pig's fry," "kidneys" or "tripe and onions,"—Pall

A Soldier in the Days of 1777.

Here is a picture of one of the men at Val-ey Forge: "His bare feet peep through his ley Forge: ernout shoes, his legs nearly maked from the tattered remains of an only pair of stockings, his breeches not enough to cover his makedness, his shirt hanging in strings, his hair disheveled, his face wan and thin, his look hungry, his whole appearance that of a man for-saken and neglected." And the snow was falling! This was one of the privates. The officers were scarcely better off. One was wrapped "in a sort of a dressing gown made of an old blanket or woolen bed cover." uniforms were torn and ragged; the guns were rusty; a few only had bayonets; the soldiers carried their powder in tin boxes and cow horns. The horses died of starvation, and the men harnessed themselves to trucks and sleds, hauling wood and previsions from storehouse to hut. At one time there was not aration in camp. Washington seized the peril with a strong hand and compelled the people in the country about, who had been selling to the British army at Philadelphia, to give up their stores to the patriots at Valley Forge.-St. Nicholas.

Theatrical Companies With a Tent. A new summer diversion is the tent theatre. Traveling companies of a cheap theatrical character can not afford the luxury of a long sammer vacation, and have begun to rival the circus by holding performances in a tent. Through the country villages they attain a certain popularity.-Chicago Times.

## Yearly Expenses of a Graduate.

The everage yearly expenses of this year's graduating class at Yalo college were \$960. The largest sum speat by any man in a year

### + ARM AND GARDEN.

Feeding Trough for Poultry. Philip 8. Wiseman says of the chicken

feeding trough here shown;
I find it much better than anything I have ever tried. It is most convenient if made about four feet long, and eight to ten inches wide, with ends six inches high, the boards on each side three inches, and the partition board about ten inches in height. This makes a couble trough, with feed space just wide enough so that a chicken cannot stand on either side, the partition being only three or four inches distant and higher; neither can it stand on the partition and reach down to the feed, hence there is no danger of their getting into the feed with their feet, or soil-



PEEDING TROUGH FOR POULTRY. ing it in any way. I prefer it to the slatted style of feed box. My objection to that is, it injures the feathers of the neck and is not easily cleaned. The hand hole in the partition makes it convenient to handle in mov-

Try if There is Anything in It.

I planted a peach orchard, writes M. Siroy, of the Society of Hosticulture, and the trees grew well and strongly. They had just commenced to bud when they were invaded by the curcu io quilyon), which insects were followed, as frequently happens, by anis. Having cut some tomators, the idea occurred to me that by pacing some of the leaves around the trunks and branches of the peach trees I might preserve them from the rays of the sun, which are very power-My surprise was great upon lowing day to find the trees entiresy free from their enemies, not one remaining, except here and there where a curled leaf prevented the tomato from exercising its influence. These leaves I carefully unrolled, placing upon them fresh ones from the tomato vices, with the result of banishing the last insect and enabling the trees to grow with luxurance. Wishing to carry still further my experiment, I steeped in some leaves of the tomate, sprinkled with this infusion other plants, roses and oranges. In two days these were also free from the innumerable insects which covered them, and I left sure that had I used the same means with my melon patch I should have met with the same resuit. I therefore deem it a duty I owe to the Society of Horticulture to make known this singular and useful property of the tomato leaves, which I discovered by the merest accident

### A Useful Pole Ladder.

An easily portable ladder is convenient to have at the bouse, in the ordinard, and at the



barn. That at the houseshould never be taken away under any circumstances, for it may save life in case of fire, and it makes a very ready means of escape from a window, or on to theroof. For work in the orchard, in stacking or loading bay, it is also useful. This particular ladder is made with al-

ternate steps on each

legs to prevent it from POLE LADDER. turning around. steps are strong pins put i to augur holes and safely wed\_ei. Such a halder may be made by any one handy with tools; it is light, is easily carried about, and can be in many places where it would be

## Transplanting in Dry Weather.

few minutes afterward set the plant, placing the roots deep; pack the earth tightly about the roots and stem, and cover the surface with mellow earth. Plants of cabbage, egg plant, tolerceo and pepper set in this way have scarcedy withered, though no rain has failen since, nor for many days before the setting.

## Cotton Basket.

A newly invented basket for picking cotton in the fields. It is of duck and amounts practically to a bag with an



COTTON BASKET.

It folds that when not in use, as seen in the basket to the right of the picture. This is claimed to be a great improvement on any basket made of splits or wood. It is lighter and lasts onger. There are different sizes. They can be used for grain or anything else

\$8,000 a Year at Farming. A. M. Williams writes in The Orange County Farmer: To get a good idea of im-proved methods of culture it is necessary to visit those farms where such improvements can be seen. We learn much that is valnable from agricultural papers, but we need to supplement this knowledge by our own observations in the field. Long Island is not generally considered as a model farming country, and yet I have nowhere seen better crop or more systematic farming. I have just been to visit one of these island farms that will compare favoraby with the best farms in Western New York in the quality and amount of its productions, and in every thing that constitutes began from on a is the Albertson farm, a rew mass north of Mineola. The farm consists of 140 acres, a part being woodland and the remainder under the very highest state of cultivation. This will be evident from the receipts from products, which was last year over \$8,000, and in all probability will this year exceed \$10,000. There are kept on the place twenty-four cows, eight horses and a yoke of oxen; no butter is made, but the milk shipped to the city. I inquired if they bought hay to win-ter so much stock. They answered no; we sell hay; this is one main product for sale. They also keep forty she-p and a large number of hogs. The stock is wintered largely on ensilage, which they think a great help. They keep 100 swarms of bees. They have

### best of any I have seen this season. They have three acres of towntons, raise sweet corn and cabbage very magay, and also garden seeds. They have nice appeared pear orchards, and among all this miscellaneous business no item appears to be neglected. There was one acre of oats and p as on the ground raised for soiling that contained more food than I have ever seen on one acre. The amount of manner made on the farm is

large, and yet they buy what must cost about \$1,000 per year. This and labor constitute the heavy items of expense. There appears to be no nurry or worry, but everything moves with regula ity and order. Here is a good example to contrast with

T. B. Terry's system, where only two or three items bring an income. Now when we look at these items it seems one of them would make quite a good tordness, for in-stance, 100 swarms of bees, the growing and selling of several across of garden seeds, the market gardening or the dairy, and yet all this business is attended to by only lather and son, as they have no foreman or overseer in any department; they have the agricultural papers and seem familiar with the late improvements. The daughters have a garden of reses that would vis with professionals.

To Playor Mutton,

The superior flavor of Weish, Highland or Southdown murror is, no doubt, owing to the aromatic plants which abound among the pastmage of those hills, and on which the sheep teed. Many has in Wales are thickly ed with wild turine, as many in the Highlands are with lady's mantle and other around es which are sellom, if ever, met with in our Southele on passures. This is a bint of nature's own g ving, which the farmer who goes in for ment raising or dairying in these times of hard competition cannot afford to despise. The aromatics may be less matritions than clover or rye grass; but they are just as needful to the formation of a perf or pasture re as the other varieties of pants. To this extent, therefore, they should be grown in all pastures. They are easy to cultivate, and will grow in the worst soils; but some, of course, are better admitted to ce tain soils than others. For instance, parsley, lownge, cummin, cornaider, caraway, angelica and wild thyme rock rose hy-son, sage, sayor, and hearhound, etc., in dry, poor soils; per permint, etc., in moist soils. There are many other sorts which might be found to answer even bet er; all of them obtainable, and all of them are easily propagated by seeds.-London Live Stock Journal,

#### Good for Grapes.

While professional grape growers are searching for a remedy for grape rot, or some means of preventing it, Matthew Craw ford says there is one fact that the amateur should never lose sight of. There can be no rot where the fruit is protected from dew and rain. Where vines are train d on a building under a cornice the trust neve rots. A wide board named over the treids in so far as it protects the fruit from dew rot is diminished in proportion as the vine is trained high. There is always less not at the top than at the bottom of the reduction. When vines are allowed to grow over the branches of trees, with little or no care, there little rot, and the vines are remarkably healthy and productive

### Changing the Ground.

One way of flanking our insect fore is to change our planting ground. Plants of quastes in an old gard a were lesst by number of cucumber to ties as soon as their seed-leaves appeared above ground, while of a plot a few rods distant, on which no o curbone had been grown for yearplants were scarcely molested at all. Portion plants on soil devoted to potation three years were enten back to the ground by the Colorado bestie, while on ground that has seen no pota oes recently the foliage is scarcely injured.

## Kerosene Failed With Him.

I have received little if any benefit from the much lauded kerosene emuision. Used for aphides, in varying degrees of strength, it greased the foliage but did not kill the it greased the foliage but did not kill the lice. Used very strong for the cabbage magget, it has not stopped, if it has checked, the linery. An employer containing one fourth. injury. An emulsion, containing one-fourth in bulk pure keresene, did not kill the maggots immersed in it. Used for the codling moth, it injured the foliage, but did not decrease the wormy fruits. Who has a better record for it!

## Grain Ripening Slowly.

Wheat should be fully five weeks from the time the ears first appear before being ready to cut. Oats will fully ripen in four weeks after earing, and barley in three. If these periods are much shortened it in heates that the grain is hurried into ripening by hot, dry weather, and it will likely be not very heavy. But excessive moisture at earing time, such as is common in England, is even more injurious than drought.

#### Things to Do and to Know. Butter making is the fine art of agricul-

Respirates can be trained upon a wire

trell s to good advantage. Up in Michigan certain cattle breeders have been detected in manufacturing fraud-

ulent pedigrees. Professor Tracy says that if cucumbers are planted in drills the loss from bugs will

not be felt. "Frequent stirring of the soil is liberal manuring," said Jethro Tull, who was the best agricultural writer of his day.

Millet and Hungarian grass usually do better when sown in July than if sown either in June or August. Slightly pulling and starting the roots of

will prevent them from bursting. Don't let the chickens into your potate patch, orchard or vegetable garden after you have been using Paris green or London purple. If you do there will be a lot of dead hens around, sure.

cabbages with a potato hook, when the heads are forming too rapidly in growth

A writer in The Fruit Recorder pours a pint of kerosene upon a barrel of coal ashes, mixes and uses it the same as he would lime or plaster. The smell of kerosene keeps all insects away from squashes, melons, etc.

Lay up a supply of road dust for the chickens in winter. Dry earth is the best of all disinfectants when used in sufficient quantities. So, before the first rains come on, fill any old package with the winter's stock of road dust, to be had for the cost of gathering.

Willis P. Hazzard names the Guernsey as the best "general purpose" cow. She has the butter qualities of the Jersey with a tougher constitution, larger size and better feeding qualities. She is the happy medium between the butter Jersey and the huge Holstein, with the good qualities of both and the defects of neither.

Farmers near New York fill very large market wagons with their produce, haul them to a railway train, and then load wagons, horses and all upon the cars, and have them taken to the city that way. Then they are driven through the streets to the commission merchants. The trains that They keep 100 swarms of bees. They have fourteen acres of potatoes, which look the commission merchants. The trains the

## YOUR HAIR

should be your crowning glory. Aver's Hair Vigor will restore the vitality and color of youth to hair that has bethin and faded; and, where the glands are not decayed or absorbed, will cause a new growth on bald heads.

MAY the youthful color and vigor of the hair be preserved to old age? Rend the following, from Mrs. G. Norton, Somerville, Mass.; "I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for the past 10 years; and, although I am upwards or 60, my hair is as abundant and glossy to-lay as when I was 25."

BE assured, that a trial of Ayer's Hair Vigor will convince you of its powers. Mrs. M. E. Goff, Lendville, Col., writes: "Two years are, my bair having almost entirely fallen out, I commenced the use of Ayer's Hair Vi or. To-day my hair is 29 inches long, fine, strong, and healthy."

RENEWED and strengthened by the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor, the hair regains its youthful color and vitality. Rev. H. P. Williamson, Davidson College, Mecklenburg Co., N. C., writes; "I have used Aver's Hair Vigor for the last ten years. It is an excellent preservative."

BY the use of Aver's Hair Vicor, Geo. A. Dadman, Waterlee, Mos., had his buly restored to its original healthy condition. He was nearly build, and very gray. He willess "Only four bottles of the Vigor were required to restore my hair to its youthful color and quantity."

USING Ayer's Hair Vigor cures dis-Foster, Princeton, Ind., writes: "I had been troubled for years with a disease of the scalp; my head was covered with dandruff, and the hair dry and harsh. Ayer's Halr Vigor gave me immediate relief, cleansed the scalp, and rendered the hair soft and pliable."

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All-Wool Extra Super Carpets, 65c, to \$1. Standard Goods. Tapestry Brussels, 60c, to \$1.00.

Brussels, \$1.00 to \$150. Velvets, \$1.00 to \$1.75. Rugs and Mats in great variety. Oil-Cloths, Straw Matting, Window Shades

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